

**ATA 2015 Annual Meeting – Medical Division
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 5, 2015

I. Call to Order

Madalena Sánchez Zampaulo called the regular annual meeting of the ATA Medical Division to order at 4:52 pm on Thursday, November 5, 2015 in Miami, FL.

The agenda and last year's minutes were accepted.

II. Introductions

Madalena Sánchez Zampaulo, Administrator
Antonio Guerra, Assistant Administrator

Madalena welcomed everyone to the conference and acknowledged her appreciation for all the support and contributions made to the Medical Division by the current Leadership Council members.

She introduced the new Administrator, Marisa Gillio, and Assistant Administrator, Tricia Perry. She also introduced Martine Douge, who was one of the founders of the Medical Division in 2003.

III. Current Business

- a) *Caduceus* (MD newsletter) saw four editions published in 2015. One recent issue featured a Swahili glossary. *Caduceus'* current editor, Tricia Perry, will continue as Editor;
- b) MD Website. Gave the URL: ata-md.org
- c) MD listserv: Joan Wallace is the moderator and the listserv is fairly active. Has been the moderator for 12 years or so.
- d) Tony spoke about this year's conference. We were privileged to have Dr. Glenn Flores as our Distinguished Speaker yesterday giving a pre-conference seminar. He is a pediatrician committed to language access.
- e) The MD dinner event is taking place today at *Dolores But You Can Call Me Lolita* at 6:30 p.m.
- f) Members were encouraged to check out the medical presenters and the sessions and write a review of the sessions for those who could not attend them.
- g) Madalena gave the floor to the new Administrator and Assistant Administrator.
- h) Tricia presented Madalena and Tony with a Certificate of Appreciation for their service.
- i) Marisa wants to have a meeting every month with the Leadership Council. She wants to focus on the Medical Interpreter Initiative.
 - Marisa also wants to try to have translated discharge instructions. JAHCO has data on deaths, and 70% is for bad communication. At least 55% of that is due to limited English proficiency.
 - Marisa wants to address the fact that "interpreters" working in the workers' comp field are being used as drivers, etc., because of the downward push on fees, driven by the government.

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- j) Tony then spoke about the new Interpretation Policy Committee initiative to create parity for certified interpreters and having the “CI” designation appear after certified interpreters’ names in our directory. It was published in the *Chronicle* that, basically, interpreters with legal, medical or conference interpreting credentials should be able to show that next to their names very shortly.

IV. New Business

- a) Next Year’s Conference in San Francisco: We need proposals and also submissions for suggestions for Distinguished Speakers for ATA57.
- b) Tricia asked if anyone living in San Francisco would help to organize the dinner there, especially to check out possible venues.
- c) Marisa said that we want to grab the experience of the past leadership council and put it together with the new ideas of the new leadership council.
- d) Tricia asked for feedback on anything that the MD is working on.
- e) Questions
- Gio Lester asked if we can submit articles that we’ve seen that are interesting involving the medical field. Maybe we can summarize it and put a link to that article? Tricia said yes.
 - Tricia said that we hope to have a few ATA56 medical session reviews published in the next issue.
 - Another lady asked a question of Tony to ask him to go on about recognizing interpreters’ credentials. He explained that it would be “CI” which stands for “Credentialed Interpreter.” He said that there will be a process that will be explained and published. The ATA will need valid documentation proving credentials.
 - Another lady asked whether the ATA want to regulate approved certifications? Tony hesitates to go any further than what’s been published in the *Chronicle*. But he said it will serve for those searching for credentialed interpreters to make it easier.
 - Helen Eby said that she’s certified both as a court and medical interpreter. If someone looked, they would only be able to search for a certified translator, not an interpreter. If done right, there would be a flag showing that.
 - Carol Velandia is also on the committee and said that it would show interpreters who have a national certification. Addresses both interpreters and those end-users who would be searching for credentialed interpreters.
 - Giovanna Lester said she was a past administrator of the Interpreters Division, and both Ann McFarlane and Timothy Yuan started working on this back in 2007 (?). She explained that those who have interpreter credentials will now have those language pairs bolded in which they are certified, just like certified translators.
 - A man asked about those language pairs not tested. She explained that the ATA has no say on that.
 - Rudy Tellez said that he, as an interpreter, is so glad that this initiative has been implemented. He thinks it’s a great way to collect all of the certifications out there and show

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- them in our directory. It will encourage those interpreters who haven't bothered to get those credentials to do so. He hopes it happens sooner than later.
- Tony said to contact any of the Committee for information: Himself, Carol, Melissa Gonzalez-Hibner
 - Another lady said that CHI and CMI don't have the oral exam for certain language pairs. She passed the written with flying colors but couldn't take the oral exam since there wasn't one. She feels that it's important for people to know that distinction.
 - Marisa said that, on page 4 of the last *Chronicle*, it's all explained. She's not on the committee but she thinks that this lady would be still listed as credentialed.
 - A man asked what was meant by that. If someone is Hungarian and doesn't have the test for oral but passed the written, would he get the CI?
 - Tony said he can't speak to that yet, but if you have documentation from one of these organizations, you'd have to submit it for review. The committee hasn't formalized it but is looking into all of it.
 - Changing the subject, a lady asked for the expectations that Marisa has for the distinguished speaker. She is a translator. Marisa suggested that she's sure this lady knows someone who inspired her in the field. It doesn't need to be someone who is famous.
 - Helen Eby said that it must be someone who hasn't presented at the ATA before and would not have normally presented here. They also can't be an ATA member.
 - Another lady trained has a suggestion for the languages that don't have tests. Language Testing International has oral proficiency tests that you can take over the phone. She recruits interpreters. She would look highly on someone who is proficient in that test. ICA (formerly Inlingua) offers tests to individuals and now even has a test that's a translation test. But even if you are an interpreter, you should take that test. If you passed it with a good score, it tells her that you have good skills in that part.
 - Helen Eby said the OPI test only talks about the weather and not more detailed subject matters.
 - Bonta said that there is listening comprehension.
 - Tricia asked her to write about this for the *Caduceus*. Helen said she'd do it.
 - Someone else asked if we should make sure that our distinguished speaker can make the conference next year before submitting his/her name to the ATA.
 - Tony said to run any questions past the Administrators before submitting the name. You also need to find a proposal that would be interesting to the membership.

V. Adjournment

Marisa adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Anne Connor